THE NEW
# INDIAN EXPRESS

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## GOOGLE MAPS TO SHOW COVID-19 RELATED INFO

**The new feature will alert users about coronavirus-related travel restrictions to help them plan their trips better**

### NEW FEATURE ROLLING OUT IN INDIA SOON

"When you look up public transit directions for a trip that is likely to be affected by Covid-19 restrictions, we'll show relevant alerts from local transit agencies... Transit alerts are rolling out in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, France, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom and the US," the company's official blog said

### USERS TO GET ALERTS FOR CHECKPOINTS

- Google Maps will alert drivers about checkpoints and restrictions along the route. The user will see an alert on the directions screen if the route is impacted by these restrictions
- Google said the new update will allow commuters to check how crowded a train station might be at a particular time

**1 billion**
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE USING THE GOOGLE MAPS APP IN A MONTH

# Indian, Chinese troops partially disengage on LAC

De-escalation in Galwan Valley, Hot Springs but impasse on at Finger-4; bilateral gesture ahead of Divisional Commanders' meet

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

THINNING of Indian and Chinese troops at multiple standoff points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh was reported on Tuesday, but there was no change in the situation at the focal point at Finger-4 where the impasse continues.

The positive gestures came on the eve of the bilateral meeting of divisional commanders ahead of the next interaction between Corps Commanders of the two countries in the near future.

A senior Army officer said, "Troop de-escalation has taken place from Patrolling Point 14 and Patrolling Point 15 in Galwan Valley and from Patrolling Point 17A lying in the Hot Springs Sector." But the focal issue remained unresolved. "The stand-off at Finger-4 area continues and it is to be discussed again at the Corps Commanders meeting to be held later," a source said.

Also, the Indian "Reserve Force" of a little over 8,000 — moved in after China increased deployment on its side — remains at its designated locations. The Chinese had gradually moved in tanks and artillery and India matched its deployment.

The thinning of troops is being attributed to the first-ever Corps Commander-level talks on June 6 at Moldo on the Chinese side of the LAC, said sources. Heavy vehicles from both sides were moved back on May 25, as first reported by this paper. Another marginal troop retreat took place on June 2.

**Contentious points**

The points of contention are the roads at the base of Finger-4 and the link road connecting the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi road to Galwan valley. Chinese troops had attacked Indian soldiers with rods, stones and fists. India retaliated

In the coming days, multiple meetings of the highest ranking officers of the front, Division Commanders and Sector Commanders of both sides, will take place to chalk out area-wise troop withdrawal. These will happen before the next Corps Commander-level meeting.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had on Monday claimed that the first Corps Commander-level talks were positive.

"Both India and China have agreed to resolve the border dispute in future and also the present tussle with talks," he added.

"The Major General (Division Commander) level meeting is likely to be held on Wednesday, depending on the weather, to pave the way for future step-wise de-escalation," said sources.

The stand-off locations extended from the Galwan Valley to Finger-4 along the northern flank of the Pangong Tso Lake in Eastern Ladakh. It started at Finger-4 in the intervening night of May 5-6, and stretched to locations in the Hot Spring Sector and Galwan Valley.

**REST IN PEACE**

Police officers salute as pallbearers bring the coffin into the Fountain of Praise church in Houston, Texas for the funeral of George Floyd, whose death ignited protests against police brutality and racism, on Tuesday | AFP PTI

## K'taka won't scrap SSLC exams

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Udupi

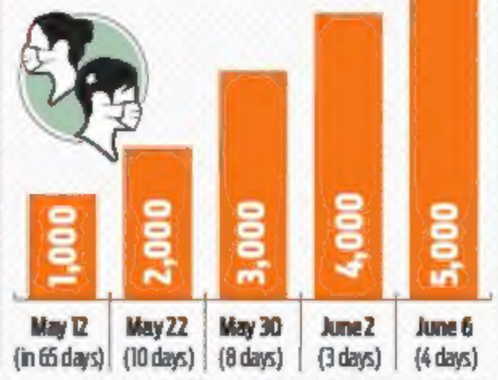
PRIMARY and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar on Tuesday said the state will go ahead with conducting the SSLC examinations from June 25 to July 4 and there is no question of cancelling it.

Speaking after participating in a meeting of Education Department officials, he said students who are in containment zones will have the option of writing the supplementary exams. However, educationist Dr Niranjanaradhya V P said that "life is more important than exams". "A decision should be taken in the best interests of the children. I request the State Government and the Education Minister to reconsider the decision," he told *TNIE*. P2

**5,921**
TOTAL CASES AS OF JUNE 9 EVENING

First Covid +ve case MARCH 08

### FEWER DAYS FOR EVERY 1,000 NEW COVID-19 CASES IN K'TAKA




While Karnataka had been managing the Covid-19 pandemic quite well, the progression of cases over the days reveals how rapidly it has increased, as the time taken for every thousand new cases shrunk significantly. Several factors have contributed to this:

- The prime reason for cases going up are returnees from Maharashtra - 3,889 of the total 5,921 testing positive coming in from the neighbouring state.
- Easing of lockdown saw many moving around more freely; 1,095 primary and secondary contacts of the total cases have tested positive.
- 155 incoming international air travellers and 335 domestic travellers tested positive. This is besides those coming from Maharashtra.

## Trimming of syllabus, instructional hours for students on cards this year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Centre is considering trimming the syllabus and instructional hours for school students for the coming academic year, Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said on Tuesday.

"In view of the current circumstances, and after receiving a lot of requests from parents and teachers, we are contemplating the option of reduction in the syllabus and instructional hours for the coming academic year," he tweeted.

Pokhriyal asked teachers, educationists and academicians to share their views with the ministry to help in taking a final decision on the matter.

Officials in the HRD Ministry said at first, the syllabi for Classes 10 and 12, whose students will take board examinations next year, could be reduced. Later, the pattern can be extended to other classes.

The plan by the ministry follows a meeting between Union School Education Secretary Anita Karwal with state education secretaries on Monday, in which many state authorities had recommended that syllabi in NCERT textbooks be cut due to massive disruptions in academic activities since March, when the Covid-19 pandemic started spiralling across the country.

Pending CBSE board exams for Class 10 and 12 that had had to be suspended due to the lockdown, have been rescheduled for July.

Officials, meanwhile, also said that the Centre is planning to reconsider its decision to open schools within the next two months.

## Register all the migrants, offer local jobs: SC

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

TAKING note of the plight of migrant workers, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered states and Union territories to ensure registration of around one crore migrant workers at village and block levels to determine their employability and provide jobs suitably in the home states.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said, "There are huge lapses on the part of the state authorities in implementing state policies and decisions, and most of the claims are only on paper," the bench's order read.

The bench gave the Centre and states 15 days to send back migrants and directed the Railways to provide a train within 24 hours of a demand raised by any state. It also asked states to consider quashing all criminal cases against migrants who had proceeded on foot, and withdraw all complaints and prosecution against those who violated lockdown rules.

EXPRESS READ

### Kejriwal tests -ve for Covid-19, Scindia +ve

New Delhi: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has tested negative for Covid-19, an official said. The AAP supremo underwent the test for novel coronavirus on Tuesday. Meanwhile, BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia tested positive and has been admitted to a private hospital.

### State's STPI units clock record ₹36k cr exports

Bengaluru: The Karnataka's IT industry stayed afloat during the Covid-19-induced lockdown, with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) units posting exports of Rs 36,459 crore over the three month period (March-May 2020), STPI said on Tuesday.

## Need strong demand stimulus: India Inc

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Covid-19 pandemic has dealt the worst blow to the Indian economy since Independence and a short but intensive bout of demand-side stimulus has become utmost necessary.

This was the key takeaway from Tuesday's panel discussion on mitigating the impact of the pandemic, organised by *TNIE* and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

The panel, moderated by *TNIE* Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla, comprised industry heavyweights Naushad Forbes, co-chairman, Forbes Marshall; Sanjiv Bajaj, MD & CEO, Bajaj Finserv; Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, CMD, Biocon; R Dinesh, joint MD, TV Sundram Iyengar & Sons; Shankar Acharya, honorary professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations; Shobana Kamineni, executive vice-chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise; and Puneet Chhatwal, MD & CEO, Indian Hotels Company.

With job losses deepening and incomes falling, Bajaj said short-term demand stimulus to spur individual consumption is crucial. "If there is a patient who has just had major trauma, the doctors will give a cocktail of medications for a few days. If you give it for weeks and months, it can kill. It needs to be short term, to get things moving... to take our economy out of this comatose state," he said. Two large asset classes — home and automobiles — could be incentivised to achieve this, he added.

Forbes also said there were other areas which should be addressed. "One, the government should pay its bills. There are huge outstanding dues to both PSUs and private firms," he noted, "Second, a huge public works programme and infra investments from the government is needed".

Forbes reiterated the CII had recommended three key focus areas to boost demand: direct cash transfers to the poor, income and wage support for enterprises in the form of government guarantees, and emergency stimulus to the worst-hit sectors like hospitality, retail, and real estate.

Extra government spending means a higher fiscal deficit and accompanying concerns, but he added that without higher spending, economic activity and, subsequently, government tax collections, could lead to a "bigger deficit". "That's the argument for boosting demand," he said. But, caution needed to be taken to see deficits did not balloon to un-manageable levels, Acharya warned. P12

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### JOB OUTLOOK BLEAKEST IN 15 YEARS

**LOCKDOWN BLUES**

Companies are adopting a wait-and-watch policy in the post-lockdown era

Only 5% of the 695 firms across India surveyed plan to hire in the next three months

Net job outlook is the weakest since ManpowerGroup Survey began FIFTEEN years ago

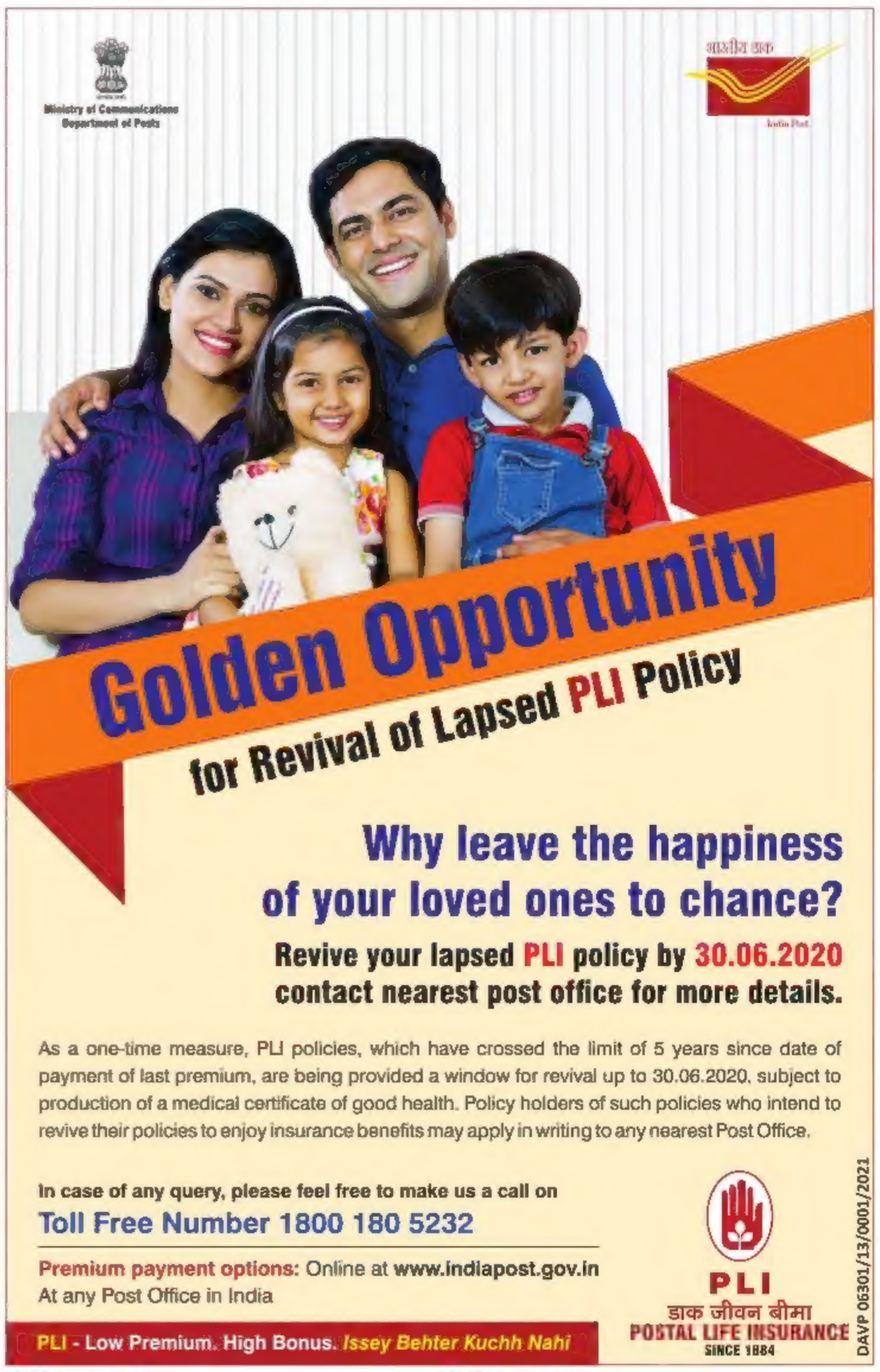
88% Wholesale & retail trade industry the worst hit as 88% of them reported businesses were in trouble

**WHERE HIRING IS LIKELY**

Mining & construction, finance, insurance, real estate sectors expected to drive job market in Q3

Most hirings recorded in medium-sized organisations, followed by large-sized and small-sized firms

Source: ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey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